

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AF-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 CU-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9333

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 655

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACON

SUBJ: INVITATIONS TO AND AGENDA FOR WORLD

CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S

YEAR (WCIWY)

REF: USUN 565

1. AMB WHITE SPOKE MAR 3 TO ASST SEC GEN SIPILA, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED TO NEW YORK, REGARDING WORDING OF SEC GEN'S INVITATION TO GOVERNMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN IWY CONFERENCE. SAID SHE WAS SURPRISED AND DISTURBED TO SEE THAT INVITATION LISTED AS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SUBJECT ON AGENDA "THE INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND ELIMINATING RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION." SHE RECALLED TO MS. SIPILA THAT IN PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS AND DOCUMENTATION, THEMES OF IWY AND CONFERENCE HAD ALWAYS BEEN LISTED AS (1) EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN, (2) INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, AND (3) WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO COOPERATION AMONG STATES AND WORLD PEACE, IN THAT ORDER. WHILE ELIMINATION OF RACISM HAD BEEN MENTIONED, IT HAD NEVER HAD SUCH A PROMINENT POSITION. THERE WERE MANY OTHER UN FORUMS FOR DEALING WITH THIS SUBJECT AND IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE TO HAVE IWY CONFERENCE DIVERT ITS ENERGIES TO THIS FROM ITS

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PRINCIPAL PURPOSE.

2. AMB WHITE ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS HER STRONG HOPE THAT CONFERENCE WOULD NOT BE POLITICIZED, AND POINTED OUT US CONCERN ABOUT SUCH TREND IN OTHER PARTS OF UN SYSTEM.

3. MS. SIPILA CLAIMED THAT SHE WAS HERSELF " A LITTLE SURPRISED" AT WORDING OF INVITATION, BUT SAID IT WAS SECRETARIAT PLAN TO GIVE PRINCIPAL ATTENTION AT CONFERENCE TO OTHER TWO THEMESE. SHE ALSO SAID SHE AGREED WITHA MB WHITE RE DEPOLITICATION, AND WOULD DO HER BEST TO ACHIEVE IT. SHE WANTS CONFERENCE TO CONCENTRATE ON ITS AIM---TO PROMOTE THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN-- NOT TO DEAL WITH OTHER ILLS OF SOCIETY.

4. AMB WHITE SUGGESTED THAT SINCE SEC GEN INVITATION WAS FAIT ACCOMPLI, BEST WAY TO HANDLE MATTER NOW MIGHT BE IN FINAL WORDING OF AGENDA AND STRUCTURING OF CONFERENCE AND ITS WORKING GROUPS. MS. SIPILA AGREED.
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